Agitation on Conversion in Orissa

5563. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Hindu Jagaran Sammukhya' has threatened to launch agitation in Orissa alleging Rampant conversion by Church and Christian Missionaries as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 8th April, 2000; and

(b) if so, the action being proposed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) As per available information, Hindu Jagaran Sammukhya threatened to launch agitational activities in the State of Orissa, if the State Government failed to stop the ongoing conversions by the Christian Missionaries in Orissa.

However, Article 25(1) of the Constitution of India provides that subject to public order, morality and health, and to the provisions of part III, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagnate religion. The Govt. of Orissa has enacted. The Orissa Freedom of Religion Act, 1967 for prohibition of conversion from one religion to another by use of force or allurement/inducement or fradulent means.

Public Order and Police are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. As such, the registration, investigation and detection of crime as well as the prevention of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments.

Advanced off-shore patrol vessels

5564. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that an order for three advanced off-shore patrol vessels were placed with Goa Shipyard Ltd. in 1990.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the execution of the construction by Goa Shipyard Ltd. was way behind the schedule;

(c) whether the delivery of third vessel has been obtained by the Coast Guard; and

(d) if not, what were the reasons for the late delivery?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delivery of the vessels could not be effected as per schedule and got delayed for the following reasons:—

(i) Extra time required to carry out modifications, changes and additional work necessitated due to change in the requirements projected during the construction phase.

(ii) Procurement of vital equipment ex-import got delayed due to changes in the import policy, and restrictions imposed on imports necessitated due to limited availability of foreign exchange.

(iii) The Public sector Undertakings failed to supply the equipment ordered on them in time; and

(iv) Go slow by the GSL workmen during 1996 and 1998.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Lives claimed by militancy

5565. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the highest toll of life taken by militancy on any one day, in different parts of the country during January to April, 2000;

(b) the total number of lives claimed by militancy during this period; and

(c) the steps taken, including that by way of direct talks with militants and insurgents to deal with the menace of militancy in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) As per available information, a total number of 1154 lives were claimed by militancy in different parts of the country during the period January to April, 2000. 35 persons belonging to Sikh community were massacred by the terrorists in Chittisinghpura village in Jammu and Kashmir on the intervening night of March 20-21, 2000.

(c) Government has been regularly sensitising all State Governments and concerned agencies regarding the activities of terrorists. Intelligence is